

Recent assessment about the demand and indigenous supply position of coal over the next decade shows a gap of 30.06 million tonnes, 162.28 million tonnes and 260.30 million tonnes during 2001-02, 2006-07 and 2011-12 respectively. Public sector alone will not be able to mobilize adequate resources to step up coal production to meet the ever increasing demand. The Central Government have, therefore, decided to allow Indian companies to do coal mining without the restriction of captive consumption and to engage in exploration of coal, subject to appropriate legislative changes.

(c) Some trade union organisations have been opposing the opening up of various areas of the national economy, including coal, to the private sector. The All India Worker's Federation, a trade union organisation affiliated to CITU, went on strike from 20th November, 2000 to 22nd November, 2000 in support of a number of demands which included opposition to the private sector's entry in coal mining.

(d) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha, which seeks to allow Indian companies to undertake non-captive coal mining in the new blocks of coal and lignite and also exploration of coal and lignite resources. The steps taken to upgrade the coal sector include measures for improvement in productivity, capacity utilisation, quality enhancement and consumer satisfaction.

Modernisation of textile industries

*178. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State public sector textile industries have also applied for assistance from the fund created for modernisation of textile industries or upgradation of textile workers;

(b) the total amount spent from this fund till date and how many textile factories or industrial workers have been benefited from the fund; and

(c) whether any textile factory of Orissa has got the benefit?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RAN A): (a) No, sir.

(b) As on 31.12.2001, an amount of Rs. 4201 crore has been sanctioned by the financial institutions to the 803 applicants, out of which Rs. 2236 crore has been disbursed to 560 applicants.

(c) No, Sir.